(d) if so, the details of the assistance that the Ministry is going to extend to such States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have the powers to fix tariff for sale of electricity to consumers including farmers. However, if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commissions, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensee the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy. The State Government is expected to provide for the same in their budget.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hike in coal price

*133. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India has increased coal price by 16 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government should not have instead reduce the high import duty on coal; and

(c) whether this will not lead to further financial emaciation of State Electricity Boards particularly as fuel surcharge cannot be passed on to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The import duty on coal is quite low. Non-coking coal used for power generation is levied an import duty of 5% only.

(c) The cost of coal to the power utilities comprises the basic price charged by the coal companies, royalty and sales tax paid to the State Governments, excise duty on stowing of sand, cess in respect of coal produced in the State of West Bengal and transportation and handling charges etc. The basic price is only a fraction of the ultimate total cost to the consumers. It is estimated that the impact of the recent increase in

coal price is less than 6 paise per unit in the cost of electricity generation, and will thus have only marginal impact on SEBs.

Demand for autonomy under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution

*134. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many ethnic tribal groups are demanding for autonomy under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Assam Government has already committed to recommend the matter to the Centre; and

(c) if so, the Centre's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGHUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Assam has constituted a Ministerial Sub-Committee to examine the matter. However, no proposal has been received from the Government of Assam so far.

Employment to rural people of Uttar Pradesh under SJGY

*135. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed to provide employment to the rural people in Uttar Pradesh under the Swaran Jayanti Gram in Yojana during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial made during this period; and

(c) the details of actual amount spent out of the allocated fund and the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) (1) Under Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) no physical targets are fixed for providing employment to the rural poor. During the last three years about 3,60,491 swarozgaries have been assisted in Uttar Pradesh.